Purchase of power from Bangladesh

†1482. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import power from Bangladeh;

(b) whether Bangladesh has show interest in exporting power to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken to import power to meet growing demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Preliminary discussions have been held at commercial level for setting up inter-connections with Bangladesh and initial exchange of power of the order of 150 MW. The growing demand of power can be met to some extent through import of power from neighbouring countries. Power is already being exchanged with Nepal and Bhutan.

Scheme for conversion of wasteland into cultivable land

†1483. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme, at national level, to make cultivable the wasteland lying in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the wasteland available in the country, before, formulating the scheme; and

(d) if so, the total quantity of such land and State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources (the erstwhile Department of Wastelands Development) in the Ministry of Rural Development has the mandate to develop wasteland in non-forest areas aimed at checking land

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.